MEDIA ACCESS CONTROL SCHEME FOR SERIALLY LINKED DEVICES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network includes a master station and terminal devices each coupled using a serial data interface to a modem that in turn couples to a twisted pair line. These elements communicate information using a media access control scheme in which a device claims access to the twisted pair line and communicates information on the twisted pair line while the line is claimed. More specifically, a device with information to transmit claims the line by asserting a request to send (RTS) line of its serial data interface, communicates information while the RTS line is asserted, and de-asserts the RTS line upon completing transmission. In addition, the master station and terminal devices implement delays between communications on the line in order to reduce the probability of data collisions.